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PAGE 01 STATE 053188

64

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

1. HIGHLIGHTS. CAMBODIAN FIGHTING AND KISSINGER MIDEAST
TRIP ARE ON RECENT FRONT PAGES. FRIDAY NYTIMES FRONTPAGED
BANK OF AMERICA OFFERS 500 MILLION CREDIT TO SOVIET.
LITTLE COMMENT.

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PAGE 02 STATE 053188

1A. FRIDAY WASHPOST INSIDE HAD VIENNA ITEM ON TROOP TALKS;

FRIDAY BALTSUN REPORTED ON SOVIET TV PROGRAM ON US. SATURDAY PAPERS REPORTED US SECOND ATOMIC EXPLOSION IN NEVADA WITHIN WEEK, THIS YIELDING 20 TO 200 KILOTONS; SATURDAY WASHPOST REPORTED NO REPLY YET TO CREDIT OFFER; ALSO KISSINGER QUOTE ON VLADIVOSTOK REVEALED; ALSO US AGREES TO GO TO PARIS ENERGY MEETING; PLUS JAPAN MOVES TOWARD APPROVAL OF ATOMIC PACT WITH STRONG STAND BY PM MIKI AND SUPPORT OF BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL LEADERS. MONDAY WASHPOST HAS BRIEF ON CREDIT TO SOVIET.

2. TROOPS. FRIDAY WASHPOST ITEM REPORTED SOVIET BLOC PRESENTED A REFORMULATION OF ITS PROPOSAL FOR TROOP REDUCTIONS WITH COMMUNIST DELEGATES SAYING THE NEW ARITHMETIC CONSTITUTED A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE, WHEREAS NATO SPOKESMAN SAID: I DON'T SEE ANY GREAT CHANGES IN SUBSTANCE. ITEM SAYS UNDER PLAN US AND SOVIET ARMIES WOULD CUT 10,000 MEN IN CENTRAL EUROPE THIS YEAR AND IN SIX MONTHS SIX NATO

AND THREE COMMUNIST NATIONS WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH CUTS TOTALLING 20,000, ALSO IN 1976 ALL PARTIES WOULD MAKE ANOTHER 5 PERCENT CUT. ACCORDING TO ITEM, MAIN DEPARTURE SEEMED TO BE US AND SOVIET WOULD BE ASKED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE WHEREAS NATO APPROACH CALLS FOR AN INITIAL 15 PERCENT CUTBACK BY BOTH SIDES.

3. KISSINGER. SATURDAY WASHPOST MARDER LOCAL REPORTS HALPERIN'S SUCCESS, UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, IN GETTING VLADIVOSTOK BACKGROUNDER ON RECORD. MARDER SAYS SUBSTANCE OF NOV. 25 AND DEC. 3 REMARKS WAS REPORTED AT TIME BUT DETAILS MAY BE OF INTEREST TO SPECIALISTS. MARDER SAYS, WHEN ASKED ABOUT HOW U.S. AND USSR WOULD VERIFY EACH OTHER'S INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILES TO DETERMINE IF THERE WERE CHEATING ON THE VLADIVOSTOK LIMITS, KISSINGER SAID: IF THEY (THE SOVIETS) REJECT THE VERIFICATION FORMULA, UNLESS THERE IS ENORMOUS INGENUITY IN WHICH WE COME UP WITH ANOTHER ONE, I REALLY WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN; I THINK IF THEY REJECT VERIFICATION IT WILL BE VERY HARD TO CONCEIVE HOW THERE CAN BE A DEAL. KISSINGER ADDED WE HAVE ALMOST 100 PERCENT CONFIDENCE THAT NUMBERS OF FIXED, LAND-BASED MISSILES CAN BE VERIFIED
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PAGE 03 STATE 053188

ACCURATELY, AND ON LAND-BASED MOBILE MISSILES WE COULD BE OFF BY SOME 25 PERCENT WHICH WOULD BE A TOLERABLE RISK IN TERMS OF THE ENTIRE ACCORD. WHEN SPOKESMAN FUNSETH WAS ASKED IF DEPARTMENT WOULD ABANDON BACK-GROUNDERS AS RESULT OF FORCED DISCLOSURE OF THESE TWO TRANSCRIPTS, HE SAID: I BELIEVE WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE BACKGROUNDERS.

4. RUSSIA. FRIDAY BALTSUN HAD MOSCOW AP REPORTING SOVIET TELEVISION BROADCAST AN HOUR-LONG DOCUMENTARY PORTRAYING AMERICA AS BESET BY CRIME, POVERTY, STRIKES, UNEMPLOYMENT, RACISM AND ENERGY CRISIS, AP SAYING NEW SHOW WAS IN LINE WITH RECENT ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN AND MENTIONED CENTRAL PARK ASSAULTS ON KENNEDY'S SON AND ALSO CONNIE FRANCIS. ITEM ADDS CAMERA SHOWED NEWSSTAND WITH ISSUES OF SOVIET LIFE ON SALE, NARRATOR VALENTIN ZORIN SAYING THERE WERE NONE OF THESE THREE YEARS AGO, APPARENTLY ATTEMPTING TO INDICATE THAT THE MAGAZINE WAS NEW TO AMERICAN NEWSSTANDS. AP SAID THE FOOTAGE AND COMMENTARY SEEMED TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE RUSSIAN VIEWERS THAT THEIR INABILITY TO BUY MANY FOREIGN MAGAZINES AND BOOKS IN SOVIET UNION WAS A SITUATION THAT HAD BEEN SHARED BY NEW YORKERS.

4A. SATURDAY WASHPOST LOCAL ITEM REPORTED TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM HURST, A VICE PRESIDENT OF BANK OF

AMERICA, WHO SAID IDEA WAS TO LEND 500 MILLIONS IN A SORT OF REVOLVING CHARGE ACCOUNT BUT OTHER BANKS WOULDN'T BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE UNTIL RUSSIAN INTEREST IS EXPRESSED.

4B. MONDAY WASHPOST HAS MOSCOW BRIEF REPORTING SOVIET TV COMMENTATOR YURI ZHUKOV SAID U.S. COULD END UNEMPLOYMENT BY EXTENDING LARGE-SCALE CREDIT TO SOVIET UNION, ZHUKOV SAYING IF U.S. COMMITTED ITSELF TO CREDITS TO EXTENT BRITAIN HAS DONE--2.4 BILLION OVER FIVE YEARS--IT WOULD GENERATE ENOUGH JOBS TO WIPE OUT UNEMPLOYMENT. ZHUKOV ALSO SAID USSR WOULD CONTINUE TO HONOR AMERICAN CONTRACTS NEGOTIATED BEFORE RENUNCIATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT BUT STRONGLY HINTED THAT FIRMS FROM COUNTRIES GIVING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 053188

FAVORABLE CREDITS WOULD BE FAVORED IN NEW CONTRACTS.

5. COMMENT. MONDAY WASHPOST EDITORIAL ON NUCLEAR IRAN SAYS IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR U.S. TO INDUCE IRAN TO AGREE THAT SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL WILL BE SHIPPED ABROAD FOR REPROCESSING AND NOT LEFT IN IRAN WHERE IT MIGHT BE USED TO MAKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

6. NEWSWEEK. SCHLESINGER IN INTERVIEW DEFENDS CURRENT DEFENSE BUDGET, SAYS EVERY POLL OF AMERICAN PUBLIC SHOWS THE WISH TO MAINTAIN A MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT THAT IS SECOND TO NONE, ADDING HE THINKS AMERICAN PUBLIC DOESN'T RECOGNIZE THE DEGREE TO WHICH WE HAVE CUT AWAY OUR OWN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. NEWSWEEK ARTICLE CITES RECENT POLLS SHOWING SENTIMENT CUTTING DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AND

INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND
HOUSING. NEWSWEEK SAYS CONGRESS WILL PROBABLY TRIM BETWEEN
FIVE AND EIGHT BILLIONS FROM DEFENSE BUDGET, PERHAPS B-1
AND TRIDENT CUTS, TOO. NEWSWEEK CONCLUDES SCHLESINGER
MAY EXAGGERATE DECLINE IN U.S. POWER BUT HE IS RENDERING
A SERVICE IN SOUNDING AN ALARM. INGERSOLL

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